

REMARKS

Claims 22-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended, and claims 1-21 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0048968 to Cox et al. (Cox). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, that a top surface of the base member has a circular or elliptical shape. This feature is described in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0076] and [0078].

Cox discloses a spherical base portion 22. Cox does not teach or suggest the top surface of the base portion 22 having a circular or elliptical shape.

In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill to modify the base portion 22 of Cox into any number of unidentified shapes and sizes. There is no disclosure in Cox of the base portion 22 or the top surface of base portion 22 having different shapes or sizes, and there is no disclosure regarding a circular or elliptical-shaped top surface of base portion 22. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to alter the shape of the top surface of the base portion 22. The Office Action relies on impermissible hindsight in making this rejection.

Claims 23-27 are patentable for their dependence on claim 22, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 22-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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